

## Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Updated: March 05, 2001**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program

<b>Focus Areas Funded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveillance and Epidemiology – Core Activities</li> <li>• Laboratory Capacity for Biological Agents</li> <li>• Health Alert Network</li> </ul>
<b>New Hampshire has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing it's biological laboratory capacity to test for select bioterrorism threat agents,</li> <li>• Training PHL staff to identify the above four BT organisms,</li> <li>• Hiring Surveillance and Epidemiology Coordinator, Computer Specialist for HAN, BT Scientific Expert and Lab Assistant,</li> <li>• Purchasing laboratory equipment, reagents, and supplies in preparation for BT response,</li> <li>• Developing Chain of custody Form,</li> <li>• Forming a Laboratory Response Network Planning Group with community lab partners,</li> <li>• Beginning training of Level A hospital partners on February 15<sup>th</sup>; second session scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001,</li> <li>• Providing hospital partners with materials for shipping suspect BT organisms,</li> <li>• Enhancing laboratory capacity to conduct rapid and accurate assessment of select biological agents,</li> <li>• Participating in numerous training events to increase knowledge, including Level B laboratory training,</li> <li>• Serving on policy board of NH Anti-terrorism taskforce,</li> <li>• Developing an internal oversight team for HAN, and</li> <li>• Selecting 12 communities to participate in HAN and seeking commitment from health officer, public health nurse, microbiology supervisor, infection control practitioner, and emergency room staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Year 2 Plans (August 31, 2000-August 30, 2001) include:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a surveillance and epidemiologic statewide plan for responding to acts of biological and chemical terrorism,</li> <li>• Provide adequate epidemiologic investigations for all unusual occurrences or clusters of illness associated with terrorism,</li> <li>• Create and distribute a directory of emergency contacts and resources necessary to respond to a terrorist event,</li> <li>• Review the public health legal authority for surveillance of biological or chemical terrorist events and publicize reportable diseases caused by high priority bioterrorism agents separate from other reportable conditions,</li> <li>• Develop an early alert system for rapid case ascertainment and emergency reporting related to bioterrorist events,</li> </ul>

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- Initiate a collaborative surveillance project with the State Veterinarian for conditions associated with bioterrorism,
- Initiate a collaborative surveillance project with Bureau of Health Statistics and Data Management on mortality due to conditions associated with bioterrorism,
- Explore the potential for syndromic-based surveillance with hospital partners,
- Train local public health staff on terrorism preparedness,
- Ensure rapid reporting and integration of information systems for diagnostic test results, surveillance data, and other critical information within NH and with national partners,
- Assure Public Health laboratory ability exists at Level B/C to respond to a real or suspect incident involving the priority biological threat agents,
- Continue development of the NH Laboratory Response Network
- Provide and maintain local public health jurisdiction access via the Internet to on-line national and state information resources for protecting communities against bioterrorism and other public health threats,
- Establish a comprehensive distance-learning infrastructure to enhance core workforce development among staff in all local health departments to assure skills and competencies needed to address bioterrorism preparedness and response,
- Develop state and local systems to improve health alert communications, and
- Ensure rapid reporting and integration of information systems for diagnostic test results, surveillance data and other critical information within NH and with national partners.

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<b>Emergency Contacts</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</u></td> <td>(617) 223-9540</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>State Emergency Management Agency:</u></td> <td>(603) 271-2231</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</u></td> <td>(617) 742-5533</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>State Public Health Agency:</u></td> <td>(603) 271-4501</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</u>	(617) 223-9540	<u>State Emergency Management Agency:</u>	(603) 271-2231	<u>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</u>	(617) 742-5533	<u>State Public Health Agency:</u>	(603) 271-4501
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<b>Anecdotes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplemental award provided funding for SmartCycler – instrument was purchased and procedures are being evaluated.</li> </ul>								

3/22/2001